

BASILOSaurus.

The following is an extract from a letter from Prof. J. Müller to Mr. A. Retzius, dated Berlin, March 24, 1847:—

“The *Hydrarchus*, Koch, found in the tertiary formation in Alabama, is identical with Harlan’s *Basilosaurus* and Owen’s *Zeuglodon cctoides**. The crowns of the teeth, with which Owen was not acquainted, have a great resemblance to those of the Seal; in the maxillary teeth they are cutting and many-pointed; most of the maxillary teeth have double roots, but the anterior has, as in the Seals, only a single root. In the anterior part of the jaw are found conical curved teeth, viz. an incisive and a canine, at least this is the case with the under jaw.

“As such teeth as those which are found in the *Hydrarchus* occur in the tertiary formation in Malta, we may conclude that this animal belongs likewise to the tertiary formation of that island.

“I think I can positively show that the *Hydrarchus* is not a reptile, but a mammal belonging to a peculiar extinct family. It has the ear formed as in the mammals, viz. a helix and a tympanic bone as in the Whales. It has moreover two occipital condyles, and in the whole formation of the cranium no trace of reptile structure occurs, but on the contrary everything is as in mammals.

“The vertebral column is very peculiar in its structure. The cervical vertebræ, probably more numerous than in any other mammal, are without perforations in their transverse processes; the ribs are only attached to the transverse processes of the vertebræ; at the central and posterior part of the column the bodies of the vertebræ are unusually long, and must both at the anterior and posterior part of the extremities have been cartilaginous, inasmuch as we find here beneath the bony shell a mass of pure stone, while the central part of these vertebræ consists wholly of bone.”—*Silliman’s Journal for Nov. 1847.*

ADDITIONAL NOTE ON A PAPER ON PORCUPINES.

By J. E. GRAY, Esq., F.R.S. &c.

In my former paper† I was unable to give the country of *Acanthion Cuvieri*. Mr. Frazer has since brought a skull and two living specimens of this species from Algiers; the latter are now in the Gardens of the Society, and Mr. Whitfield has brought others from the Gambia. In the number of the *Journal of the Asiatic Society of Calcutta* for August 1847 just arrived (p. 772. t. 32), I observe that Mr. Hodgson has described a new species of Indian Porcupine under the name of *Hystrix alopæus*, called *Ancholia* by the natives, which is certainly an *Acanthion*, and most probably my *A. Hodgsonii*; if so, the latter name will have the priority, as having been published in July.—*From the Proceedings of the Zoological Society, Nov. 9, 1847.*

* *Phocodon*, Agassiz. *Squalodon*, Grateloup, in Leonhard and Bronn’s *Jahrbuch für Mineralogie*, 1841, p. 830.

† *Ann. Nat. Hist.* vol. xx. p. 349.